

During the evidence session on 18 December 2013, Audit Scotland offered to clarify NHS spending on private health care between 2011/12 and 2012/13 (Public Audit Committee Official Report Cols 1911-1912).

Audit Scotland provided the information below, taken from their report NHS financial performance 2012/13.

Correspondence from Audit Scotland to Public Audit Committee, dated 19 December 2013

Following up from yesterday, just to clarify the figures on spending on private healthcare. Over one year, between 2011/12 and 2012/13, spending rose from £65.5 million to £80.3 million, which was an increase of 23 per cent. I've copied the relevant paragraphs directly from page 32 of the report below.

71. Spending on private sector healthcare increased by £14.8 million in 2012/13 to £80.3 million, a rise of 23 per cent compared to 2011/12. Across the NHS in Scotland, spending on private sector healthcare accounted for less than one per cent of total spending on hospital and community health services (0.95 per cent).

72. Spending increased in eight of the territorial boards. The largest rise was in NHS Lothian, which had an increase of £9.5 million, taking its spending to £14.8 million (21 per cent increase). It spent £12 million on sending patients to have treatment in the private healthcare sector to help manage waiting lists, over 80 per cent of its total spending on the private sector. NHS Grampian more than doubled its spending compared to the previous year, spending £6.3 million. It required additional theatre capacity to ensure that patients were treated in line with the requirements of the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011. NHS Grampian has committed £10 million of capital expenditure and £8 million of recurring revenue expenditure to increase local operating theatre capacity and reduce its use of the private sector from 2014/15.